

IMPORTED ARISTOCRACY.

Well-to-do Foreigners Generally Anti-Democratic—A Case In Point.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Of course, most know that all liberally-educated and well-to-do foreigners, with few exceptions, coming to this country are conservative and anti-democratic (of course, I use the word democratic in its proper sense, and not as a party designation). I fell in with one of the former, evidently of Scandinavian stock, some time since in traveling on the cars in Kansas, and from his loose and ready tongue took him for a drummer, or, more properly speaking, a commercial agent. But as he showed his well-used pass to the conductor, it occurred to me that he was a railroad man, and I so intimated to him.

"No," said he, "I am president of a college in the interior of the state," when I expressed my surprise that he was so open and pronounced in his political views, for he showed himself a rampant adherent of the old republican dynasty of the state and an obvious proselyter in its interest.

I suggested that it wasn't usual for educational officers and professors to become active partisans and much less whoopers-up in the ranks—that the two didn't go together, and, it was generally taken for granted, wouldn't work well together. But he fell back on his right to vent his sentiments here and elsewhere, publicly and aloud, whether others like them or not. In this he reminded me of the reply of Horace Greeley to an opponent who affected to take offense at his (Horace's) denial of his right to his opinion, and asserted his constitutional right to hold, as he did, where the issue was only one of prosperity; and the old editor answered: "Oh, yes, yes; everyone has a constitutional right to be a d—d fool in this country." But, of course, I didn't quote it as applicable to the present case.

Such was my new-made acquaintance; not only peevish, but vivid, and posted in most of the small points and platitudes of the party in this state. He knew little of the political history of the country, and cared less. Indeed, a Swedish neighboring farmer of mine could instruct him in American history. He took little interest in general politics, but confined himself to the affairs of Kansas, as if everything, even in these times, was confined to her limits. And it seemed to be not so much her welfare either that he was consulting as it was the welfare and success of the republican party of the state. The latter was the great desideratum and object to be sought and evidently constituted the very yearning of his soul; so that those who heard him plainly inferred that he was either a candidate for some position in the gift of the party, or else was a beneficiary of party legislation or of the party treasury. One could see that the Capital furnished his whole stock in trade of argument and assertion; and to make sure of it, he pulled the paper from his pocket and referred to it as a political bible.

I may take occasion hereafter to give the ADVOCATE the drift of the discussion that followed, which was participated in by several of the passengers, and became instructive, as well as intensely interesting; and in which it might be invidious for me to say that the professor, with his Capital, got decidedly worsted.

But now I want to answer the question so often asked, why all liberally educated and particularly well-to-do foreigners arriving in this country, with very few exceptions, are intensely conservative and distrustful of American

institutions, as they are and have been from the earliest days of the government, Hamilton being the first most notable example: "The hardest lesson for the race to learn is the lesson of equality of rights for all men—of God's economy, which, unlike the economy of Mammon, is no respecter of person's, but accords rights and distributes justice alike and impartially to all."

How Mr. Jefferson and the fathers of the republic, considering their dignified origin, their education and their surroundings, came to learn this lesson, is among the things unknown. Hamilton hadn't learned it and therefore took the old shoot, the aggrandisement and promotion of the few and well born as the only element of society worthy of the notice and care of government. Educated to monarchical institutions men become conservative, that is, opposed to any movement that looks to an enlargement of the powers and privileges of, or lightening the burdens of the common people even in their own country, where the conditions are ten times harder than here. And when they arrive in this country and find a government of the people, for the people and by the people, they have their doubts and misgivings, and of course, side at once with those who are for strengthening the fabric and discouraging any further trend in a popular direction. Therefore, they have always been Hamiltonians and maligners of Jefferson; because Hamilton favored an aristocratic system and a stronger government, through a president and senate for life in imitation of the British king and house of lords, while Jefferson strove for a government of the people, the common people, the whole people, and held that the latter hadn't fought their way out from under George III to establish a George I in this country. And holding these high-toned Hamiltonian and aristocratic sentiments, and distrusting the people and their capacity to govern, and indeed our whole system at best, how can we wonder that foreigners and all who adhere to the old and the hide-bound, as the perfection of reason, are shocked and alarmed at the proposition to still further empower the people in the same direction and give a real instead of a mock efficiency to their sovereignty.

The writer knows something of the political proclivities of the great educational institutions of Germany—Heidelberg, for example, and would ask what would be the status of a student there who should confess himself a democrat and in favor of radical republican government? Wouldn't he be a white black bird in the flock and as such tabooed and passed by on the other side as a crank and an outlaw? And old Oxford in England has always been of the highest Tory stripe. Entitled to a member in parliament she has never been known to commission a liberal or a whig to that body.

Therefore, foreign educated men must be expected to steer strongly in the direction of ultra-conservatism in this country; for the progress of popular principles already made has been almost too much for them, all that they can possibly endure. As a consequence, the doctrines of Lowell and his party are repugnant, nay, abhorrent to them as they would be to Bismarck if suddenly set down in their shoes here; and I rather smile at their alarm than wonder at it.

And let me add that what I have said of Heidelberg and Oxford is measurably true of the two principal universities of this country, Yale and Harvard, as the writer can personally testify. They have always been representatives and sur-

series of the early federalism of the country, and of its successor, the whig party, even in their worst aspects, when the former joined issue with the general government during the second war with England, and threatened to secede and erect the New England states into a government of its own; and when the whig party tied itself to that rotten hulk, the Second United States bank, which engaged in a war with the government (the creature with its creator) and bought up senators and representatives like sheep in the market to support its interests and its cause. Yes, the number of democrats in either of these institutions have ever borne a very small proportion to the whole number of students; and such a circumstance as a democrat among their presidents or professors the writer never knew; till very recently the leopard has affected to change his spots, and the president and faculty of Harvard college came out Cleveland democrats at the last presidential election, to the surprise of the world. But now it is abundantly accounted for; they had been duly advised of Cleveland's sort of democracy and guaranteed that he wouldn't prove false to his federal origin and his early teachings.

The question then recurs, what is there in the higher education that leads its professors so uniformly in a direction anti-democratic and contrary to the spirit of the age in which we live? Because the teachings of history lead in that direction, and, therefore, make conservatives and Tories. Our government is an experiment based on the doctrines of Christianity, and the two will stand or fall together. All previous history teaches that the people of the world have not shown themselves hitherto competent to rule. And besides the learned are taught that they are the appointed of God to rule; and that is a lesson easily learned since it runs *pari passu* with the selfish instincts of the human heart, and leads directly into the pockets and the coffers of the elect. Therefore, they, together with the favored of fortune, believe in government by a class, and that their own class of course; and which in the Old World results in government for a class; for the powerful few as against the helpless many; for the rich at the expense of the poor and the toiler; for the great and lordly to the sacrifice of the weak and lowly.

Jefferson, who had lived abroad and studied these systems, declared the governments of Europe the wolves and the people the sheep (who wonders at anarchists there); and he and the fathers undertook to found and frame a government to take care of the weak and the lowly. The rich and powerful, said he, can take care of themselves. We have found that so, and that his government has failed to accomplish its purpose, the protection of the many from the greed of the few, not through any fault of his, but from the indifference and apathy of the masses to their own interests and the corruption of the office-holders and politicians. Even here a government of the people and by the people has resulted in a government for a class, with the result that less than 1 per cent. of the citizens of the country have become possessed of over one-half of its wealth and are fast absorbing the rest. And thus a gulf deep and broad has been established on the virgin soil between Dives and Lazarus; between a few thousand millionaires and 65 millions of God's poor, suffering children. I have had occasion to ask the doubting Thomases, who are the proper custodians of the rights and privileges of the people,

Continued on page 14.

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